



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Today's admission of guilt comes after a federal judge reversed a decision that suppressed evidence discovered in a case involving more than \$103,000 of drug money and additional drug evidence.

**Montonio L. Workcuff**, 29, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to a federal information, which will replace the indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 10, 2002.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Workcuff** admitted that he participated in a conspiracy to distribute marijuana from January 2001 to May 28, 2002. **Workcuff** also agreed to forfeit to the United States \$85,000 seized from his home.

Reversing an earlier order to suppress evidence in the case, the court ruled on Aug. 13, 2003, that the entry and search of **Workcuff's** residence was lawful. Law enforcement officers had entered **Workcuff's** residence while he was not at home without knocking and announcing their presence, Graves explained, under a no-knock search warrant. Federal prosecutors argued that the knock and announce requirement doesn't apply when a residence is unoccupied.

Under federal statutes, **Workcuff** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Drug Enforcement

Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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